GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:424
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2000
LITERACY RATE OF SCS/STS
DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV;MANJAY LAL

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the literacy rate of Scheduled Castes and scheduled Tribes is far below the national literacy rate;

(b) if so, the literacy rate of Scheduled Castes and scheduled Tribes and National Literacy rate as on 1.1.1991 and 1.1.19999; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the literacy among the scheduled Castes and scheduled tribes?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.24 FOR ANSWE
25.4.2000 REGARDING LITERACY RATE OF SC's/ST's SHRI MANJAY LAL AND SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD

(a) & (b) The Literacy rate of scheduled Castes and scheduled Tribes, in the country, as per 1991 census was 37.41 and 29.60 respectively as compared to the general literacy rate of 52.21. More recent figures are not available.

(c) In the literacy campaigns the scheduled Castes and scheduled Tribes are specially targeted. These campaigns reach out to areas of the country which are most backward, illiterate and poverty stricken. Areas of scheduled Caste and scheduled tribe concentration are covered on apriority basis and these groups are invariably accessed to a greater degree.

The three pronged strategy for increasing literacy in the country consists of:

i) Universalisation of elementary education;

ii) Non-Formal education for School drop-Outs in the age group of 9-14 years and;

iii) Literacy Campaigns for adult learners in the age group of 15-35 years & Continuing education scheme of the National Literacy Mission.

The specific steps being taken by the Government to improve literacy among Scheduled Castes and scheduled Tribes include;

Funding of Literacy projects by Central and state Governments in the ratio of 4:1 for Tribal districts as against2:1 for other areas; opening of primary schools on priority basis, development of instructional material in tribal languages at the initial stages; establishment of hostels, residential schools, provision of scholarships and freeships; launching of District primary education Programme in backward districts with low female literacy rates. A scheme for free education for girls called the National programme for Women's education is being finalized.